



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

May 6, 2013

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Room 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Mayor Paul S. Leon
City of Ontario
303 East "B" Street
Ontario, CA 91764

Gina Marie Lindsey
Executive Director
Los Angeles World Airports
7301 World Way West
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Mr. Villaraigosa, Mr. Leon, and Ms. Lindsey:

SUPPORT OF LOCAL CONTROL OF ONTARIO AIRPORT

On April 30, 2013, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) voted to support the return of Ontario International Airport (ONT) to the local control of the City of Ontario (Ontario), based on a mutually beneficial purchase price and in a manner that avoids unwarranted litigation, and protects the financial interests of Ontario and Los Angeles as well as the interests of all those who use Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and ONT. The Board further directed this Office to communicate this support to the Mayors of the Cities of Los Angeles and Ontario, Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), and appropriate agencies.

It is our understanding that over the past year, Ontario and LAWA have engaged in discussions regarding the terms for a possible transfer of ONT to Ontario. Media reports in early 2012 noted that Ontario proposed a financial package for the return of ONT totaling \$250 million. Recently, news articles indicated that LAWA offered to transfer ONT for a lump sum of \$474.5 million, which was rejected by Ontario. While an agreement has not been reached, the Board supports further negotiations in pursuit of a mutually beneficial purchase price, while avoiding costly litigation that will only prolong the process.

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The City of Los Angeles and LAWA have a pivotal opportunity to return ONT to the local control of the City of Ontario, consistent with commitments made in the 2006 Settlement Agreement to promote the regionalization of air service. The Board firmly believes regionalization of air service will relieve the pressure of future growth at LAX and mitigate surrounding communities' long-standing concerns about the impacts of LAX operations on traffic, noise, human health risks, and the quality of life. ONT is ideally suited to handle passengers in the eastern Metro area that would otherwise travel to LAX and create unnecessary congestion on southland freeways. While LAWA has made numerous efforts toward regionalization in recent years, including the marketing of ONT, ONT only accounted for 5.1 percent of the overall Southern California air passenger traffic in 2012, while LAX accounted for 75.7 percent.

The Board's support for the transfer of ONT to local control is consistent with the endorsement of the 83-member Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). In a letter to the Los Angeles City Administrative Officer Miguel Santana dated September 2, 2010, SCAG's Executive Director Hasan Ikhata stated that "SCAG supports...the transfer of ONT to local control as being in the best interest of Los Angeles and the Southern California region... [and the transfer of ONT] will enable [LAWA] to focus its attention on modernizing Los Angeles International Airport and restoring passenger traffic to pre-9/11 levels – essential steps to make LAX achieve its full potential as the City's primary economic engine." Mr. Ikhata added that "by transferring control of ONT to the City of Ontario, ONT will operate on the same basis that airports in Burbank, Orange County, Long Beach and Palm Springs operate, as a low-cost secondary airport under local control."

Again, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors strongly urges further good faith negotiations toward the return of ONT to the local control of the City of Ontario within the parameters outlined above. We believe this effort would support regionalization of air service in Southern California.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

WTF:BC:FC
JR:ib

c: Each Supervisor
County Counsel
Los Angeles City Administrative Officer
Los Angeles City Board of Airport Commissioners
Southern California Association of Governments